

"Their mouths will hang open a minute or two, and they'll all cry, 'boo-hoo.'"

□ 0915

"That's a noise," grinned the Grinch, "that I simply must hear."

So he paused. And the Grinch put his hand to his ear.

And he did hear a sound rising over the snow. It started to low. Then it started to grow.

He stared down aghast. The Grinch popped his eyes.

Then he shook. What he saw was a shocking surprise.

Every American, the tall and the small, loudly demanding tax cuts for all.

We want our deductions and a better deal, not tax cuts for corporations while you cut Meals on Wheels.

And the Grinch, with his small hands ice-cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling:

"How could it be so?"

"Am I a fool?"

"Are my policies all wrong?"

"Without those deductions, can the Nation be strong?"

And he puzzled 3 hours until his puzzler was sore.

Then the Grinch thought of something he had not tweeted before:

"Maybe tax cuts should help more than just corporations.

"Maybe this Christmas I can help the whole Nation.

"America's middle class is what made it thrive.

"They need these deductions if they're to survive."

We all know how the real story ends.

The Grinch finds his heart and he makes amends.

Now we know this tax bill won't end with such glee, because the President and corporate lobbyists control the GOP.

This Christmas, families will get just coal in their stocking.

Thanks to President Trump, the final result will be shocking.

TAX REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, over the past 31 years, our Tax Code has become broken. As our Tax Code is currently written, I have been told by many that it fails to support families across the country with the resources they need in order to properly plan for their futures. Our Tax Code has left those behind who are struggling to make ends meet, and that is unacceptable.

Today is a historic day because that is all about to change. We have heard you. Today we will vote on comprehensive tax reform.

During consideration of H.R. 1, Andrew from Indianapolis contacted me, asking that we craft a tax plan that helps the middle class. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act bill does just that. Thanks to the reduced personal tax rates this bill provides, the average family of four, earning \$73,000, will pay \$2,000 less in Federal taxes.

We heard you, Andrew.

A single mother earning \$40,000 will see \$1,300 more in her paycheck. Those

savings represent the ability for parents to save for opportunities, including future education costs for their kids, retirement savings; or for unexpected times when an emergency fund is needed to cover unplanned costs.

I heard loud and clear from a lot of people in the Fifth District—students and parents—about the importance of protecting graduate student tuition exemptions. To ensure we continue to support hardworking students pursuing their career goals, this bill continues those exemptions.

We heard you.

Deborah from Anderson called my office asking that we preserve the mortgage interest deduction. This bill does that. It makes no changes to deductions for current mortgages and it keeps the deduction in place for new mortgages of up to \$750,000.

I heard you, Deborah.

I was also contacted by a young married couple from Zionsville, in my district, who said, thanks to this bill, they have done the calculations and they think they are going to receive a \$5,000 tax cut. They will use that money to boost their savings so that they can buy their first home sooner than they expected.

I heard you.

Providing our friends, neighbors, colleagues, and loved ones the freedom to pursue their dreams—like buying a first home or saving for college—is what allows our society to improve and better itself.

I encourage my colleagues to also listen to the American people to show that we have heard them, and to support this bill. I believe it will help provide security for families across the Nation and it will help turn their dreams into their new reality.

OPPOSING THE GOP TAX SCAM CONFERENCE REPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this tax scam bill. Not only will it harm working families across the Nation, but it will visit another hurricane on Puerto Rico: an economic hurricane.

Today, Puerto Rico is in the grip of a humanitarian crisis. More than 235,000 of its people have already fled the island for the mainland.

After Maria, many of my colleagues—from Speaker RYAN to Leader MCCARTHY—went to Puerto Rico and promised they would assist the island and help them recover. Instead, what they are doing is finding a way to further drive Puerto Rico's economy into the ground.

Even though it is part of the United States—remember, since 1898, when military forces invaded Puerto Rico—this bill treats Puerto Rico as a foreign jurisdiction, levying new taxes on corporations operating there, creating in-

centives for them to leave the island and take jobs with them.

Let's be clear. Puerto Ricans are American citizens. They fight in our wars, many of them laying down their lives for our freedoms, yet this bill continues treating Puerto Rico differently than the rest of the United States.

For decades, decisions made right here in this body hollowed out, weakened, and undermined Puerto Rico's economy. This tax bill continues that awful tradition, undercutting Puerto Rico's economy once more.

All told, these tax provisions will cost Puerto Rico more than 200,000 jobs, at exactly the time when the island needs all the help it can get.

While this tax scam would hurt Puerto Rico, it also does nothing to help. While they had talked of it, there is nothing to expand the child tax credit for Puerto Rico. They eliminated the meager extensions of section 199 and rum cover-over provisions contained in the House version.

The Speaker of the House and the Republican leader went to Puerto Rico. They looked the people of Puerto Rico in the eye and made promises to help them.

That is how you help Puerto Rico?

What we are seeing is that their tax bill would serve simply to crush Puerto Rico's economy.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is morally bankrupt. It harms American citizens everywhere. It kicks Puerto Rico when it is down. It must be rejected. Vote "no."

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Jackson Health System.

Jackson Memorial Hospital first opened its doors in south Florida a century ago as a 13-bed community hospital. In the years since, Jackson has grown to become one of the Nation's largest and most renowned public hospital systems.

But, throughout the many periods of growth and expansion, Jackson has remained true to its core mission: to build and improve the health of our community by providing the best possible care for Miami's residents.

Mr. Speaker, by caring for those most in need, Jackson Health System has created a solid foundation that has empowered our families to thrive.

Congratulations to their leader, Carlos Migoya, and all of the staff of Jackson Health System on a century of excellence and care to our community. I thank them for continuing to serve as stewards of Jackson's legacy and for continuing to use healthcare to improve people's lives and to help shape their bright futures.